GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1924
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2002
IMPACT OF WTO AGREEMENTS ON INDIAN TRADE
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Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the items whose import has increased since the agreement of WTO;

(b) the items whose export has increased since then;

(c) whether the agricultural and industrial sector of the country has suffered huge losses after the implementation of WTO agreements;

(d) if so, the factual position in this regard; and

(e) the corrective measures taken / proposed to be taken by the Government to save the domestic agricultural and industrial sector?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY)
(a) to (e) The World Trade Organisation was set up on 1st January,1995. Data on the items whose import or export has increased since then are contained in Monthly Statistics of Foreign Trade of India Vol. I (Exports) and Vol.II (Imports) published by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics , copies of which are available in the Parliament Library. From the year 1995-96 till 2001-02, in rupee terms country`s exports have increased at a compound rate of 11.9 % while imports have grown at a compound rate of 12.2 %.
The Quantitative Restrictions for import of various items have been removed from time to time as part of economic reform as also in accordance with the international commitments. Removal of Quantitative Restrictions over the years has not had any significant impact on the average growth rate of imports. In fact, non-oil imports in rupee terms during this period have grown at a compound rate of 10.6%. Most of our imports comprise of raw materials, essential items, capital goods and petroleum crude. However, to ensure that domestic economy does not suffer as a result of dumping or surge in imports, anti-dumping and safeguard measures are taken in accordance with WTO agreements. An Inter-Ministerial Group under the Chairmanship of the Commerce Secretary has also been constituted to monitor the import of 300 sensitive items. The following measures have been taken to provide a level playing field to the domestic producers :

(i) Import duties on a number of items have been increased.

(ii) Import of all packaged commodities has been made subject to compliance of all the conditions of the Standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodity) Order, 1977, as applicable on domestic producers.

(iii) Import of 135 products has been made subject to compliance of the mandatory India quality standards as applicable to domestic goods. For compliance of this requirement, all manufacturers/ exporters of these products to India shall be required to register themselves with Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS).